pm J-AIT
PRODUCT MANAGER
JOINT-AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY

PM J-AIT ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

Check out the PM J-AIT Web site at: http://www.eis.army.mil/AIT to view the latest PM J-AIT contract(s) for AIT and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) hardware, software, technical engineering services, and maintenance.

Over-interrogation . . . Is Your Site on the List?

Over-interrogation of a tag can impact the life of its battery and will negatively affect the visibility of your shipments. In last month's edition, we gave you a few tips/hints to help extend the life of your tag batteries. Some of those tips dealt with over-interrogation.

As a follow-on article, we decided to take a look on the RF-ITV Tracking Portal to see which sites were reporting a high number of hits. For the purpose of this analysis, we have identified over-interrogation of a tag as being over 300 hits. On 2 April, we found 69 sites reported 14,990 tags being over-interrogated with 9,255,261 hits. That's an average of 617 hits per tag. The sites listed below are the top 10 over-interrogating sites in each Theater.

If you have followed those tips we offered and still have a problem with over-interrogation at your Read site, contact the RFID Global Help Desk at 1 (800) 877-7925 to request support from a Field Service Engineer (FSE).

The discrepancies provided below may or may not be representative of the performance at your location, but we ask that you review your sites to determine if there may be a problem with over-interrogation.

NORTHCOM:					
Site ID	Site	Site Description	Tag Count	RF Hits	Avg. RF Hits/Tag
44760	STEWARTR2	STEWART GA CONTAINER HANDLING FACILITY	68	154872	2278
41142	STEWARTR1	STEWART GA RAIL MARSHALING AREA	13	18610	1432
51164	HOODR1	HOOD TX DRRF WHEELED EXIT	173	173065	1000
54164	CHARLESTONAFBR4	CHARLESTON AFB SC 437 APS FLIGHTLINE	275	267663	973
44120	EVANSVILLER1	EVANSVILLE IN AMERIQUAL SHIPPING A/D	126	112863	896
52338	LEJEUNER5	LEJEUNE NC LMCC	13	8220	632
41064	BARSTOWR2	BARSTOW CA MCLB YERMO MAIN GATE	14	8568	612
51463	DOVERAFBC5RAMP	DOVER DE APOE C5 RAMP	1766	1078318	611
51693	BELVOIRR3	BELVOIR VA MAIN SHIPPING/REC. BLDG 767	91	53222	585
51216	AUBURNR1	AUBURN WA GDLS RECEIVING	1982	1100884	555

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the following points of contact:

Ralph Ocasio
RF-ITV Operations Section Lead
ralph.ocasio@us.army.mil
(703) 373-1366

Jerry Rodgers
Operational Readiness
jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil
(703) 373-1343

Virgil Green
NORTHCOM/PACOM
Virgil.Green@us.army.mil
(706) 545-4457

Reggie Madden
Southwest Asia/ EUCOM/ SOUTHCOM/AFRICOM
reginald.m.madden@us.army.mil
(703) 373-1347

PM J-AIT LNOs:

Cindy Jones
Southwest Asia
cindy.j.jones@kuwait.swa.army.mil
DSN (318) 430-6935

Andrew J. Strand
PACOM
andrew.strand2@us.army.mil
(808) 477-5267
DSN (315) 477-5267

Charles Van Sistine
CENTCOM
charles.vansistine@us.army.mil
(813) 827-2194
DSN (312) 651-2194

Roger Watson
FORSCOM/SOUTHCOM
roger.watsonjr@us.army.mil
(571) 426-8834

Chris Kohler
EUCOM
chriskohler@eur.army.mil
49-6221-57-7036

ITV Training:

RF-ITV Global Help Desk
help.rfitv@us.army.mil
1 (800) 877-7925

US ARMY
PEO EIS
PEO ENTERPRISE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

			Tag Count	RF Hits	Avg. RF Hits/Tag
EUCOM:					
Site ID	Site	Site Description			
51110	GRAFENWOEHRR1	GRAFENWOEHR GM MAIN GATE/RAILHEAD	76	212568	2797
40825	PIRMASENSR2-S	PIRMASENS GM WB3 MAINT ACTIVITY SARSS	49	116599	2380
52492	GERMERSHEIMR1-S	GERMERSHEIM GM RETROGRADE AE6 SARSS	195	215440	1105
51366	BREMERHAVENR2	BREMERHAVEN GM RAIL GATE	22	22426	1019
41764	KAISERR10	KAISERSLAUTERN GM ROB 6966 TTP-C	12	10800	900
41735	VILSECKR4	VILSECK GM ASP 1 TRUCK GATE	5	4094	819
40738	BAMBERGR2-S	BAMBERG GM 240TH QM WQ9 SARSS	39	22601	580
41769	ANTWERPR6	ANTWERP BE QUAY 869 NORTH POLE 9	191	101009	529
51310	MAINZR1	MAINZ GM FRANKENBACH PORT TRUCK GATE	96	43545	454
41741	BONDSTEELR1	BONDSTEEL YI GATE1	14	5668	405
PACOM:					
52179	EIELSONAFBR3	EIELSON AFB AK JMC ARRIVE/DEPART	26	72595	2792
51448	HONOLULUR3	HONOLULU HI MATSON PIER 52 SDDC	116	188054	1621
51193	HONOLULUR2	HONOLULU HI HORIZON LINES PIER 51-A SDDC	89	107828	1212
52535	YOKOHAMAR2	YOKOHAMA JA APL TERMINAL ARR/DEP SDDC	141	168927	1198
51275	SCHOFIELDR9-3	WHEELER AAF HI AHA CONTROL CENTER	6	4719	787
51243	PEARLR4	PEARL HARBOR HI MAKALAPA GATE	90	68227	758
51287	ELMENDORFAFBR2	ELMENDORF AFB AK 732 ATOC IMPORT	34	25585	753
51416	KAWAIHAER1	KAWAIHAE HI K-DOCK ARRIVE/DEPART	180	125048	695
41179	ELMENDORFAFBR3	ELMENDORF AFB AK ATOC EXPORT	130	88108	678
40755	SUWONR1-S	SUWON AB KS AKX 35 ADA CLIX SARSS	24	16034	668
CENTCOM:					
51714	SHARANAR2	SHARANA AF MCT CARGO AREA	659	1290848	1959
51348	AMABR4	AL MUBARAK AB KU TMEP	14	22367	1598
51709	NARAYR1	NARAY AF MAIN BLDG ARRV/DEPT GATE	34	35655	1049
52340	BAGRAMR7	BAGRAM AF CRSP 220 YARD MAIN OFFICE	323	188624	584
44872	JALALABADR1	JALALABAD AF MCT/ADACG	204	116841	573
52799	KANDAHARR1	KANDAHAR AF ADACG	848	411813	486
52795	ALTAQADDUMR11	AL TAQADDUM IZ MRAP SEI SITE	200	83395	417
51666	ASADABADR1	ASADABAD AF MAIN HWY	6	2398	400
51373	BAGRAMR3	BAGRAM AF CRP	1096	415210	379
43835	SEEBR1	SEEB AB MU WRM FREIGHT ARR/DEP COMPLEX	14	4944	353

841st Transportation Bn Tracks MRAPs via RF-ITV Tracking Portal

Article provided by Capt. Chris LeCron, Army 841st Trans BN Public Affairs, SDDC, Charleston Naval Weapons Station, SC

The 841st Transportation Battalion, with support from the PM J-AIT Mobile Training Team (MTT), recently shipped 2,000 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAPs) by sealift to the Middle East in support of OIF and OEF from Charleston, SC. While in-transit, they maintained 100% accountability and visibility through the RF-ITV Server. MRAPs are considered the top DoD acquisition and transportation priorities due to their life-saving armored protection.
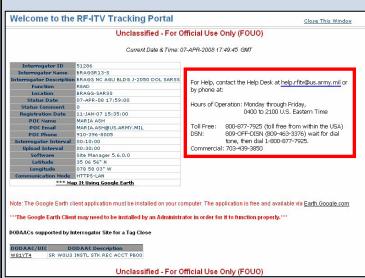
"Since these MRAPs are such high visibility cargo, it is extremely important that we track them in real time through RF-ITV and ensure 100% have working RF tags", said Master Sgt. Kevin Young, 841st Senior Transportation NCO. The RF-ITV trainers, Lawrence Berrick, Christopher Snively, and Carlos Zambrana provided mission support and training from 7-13 March 2008. Training included several hands-on stations such as hand-held RF equipment, Early Entry Deployment Support Kit (EEDSK) set up, and writing RF tags. The mission support included the ITV portion of a fort-to-port deployment exercise and providing set up and operational support for the 841st's MRAP EEDSK.

An MRAP vehicle drives onto the ship for sealift and is tracked by the RF tag being read by the EEDSK set up on the cargo pier in Charleston, SC, on 13 Mar 2008.

The 841st Transportation Battalion will continue to use the EEDSK for MRAP missions to ensure real-time visibility and higher command level visibility. Because they had only recently received the RFID equipment and had only minimal training time, the 841st had not been previously able to operate and set up their EEDSK. The PM J-AIT support allowed them to become 100% EEDSK operational and allowed them to track a current high priority MRAP sealift mission.

In the coming months, look for this change on the Site Detail page.   A link to the Global Help Desk will be provided in case you have questions about naming conventions, software, the registration process, etc.

If you have any suggestions/ideas to enhance the RF-ITV Tracking Portal, send your comments to the Global Help Desk.

Site Analysis: AMS Defense Depot DDSP, Mechanicsburg, PA

For our analysis this month, we re-visited T903050087, DDSP-MECH MECHANICSBURG PA AMS DEFENSE DEPOT DDSP because the shipments that went by sea had not arrived by the time last month's article was published.

Using the Site Activity query for the same time frame as the original article (6-19 February 2008), we identified 61 tags of the original 78 tags that were shipped by sea were still active. We can assume that the remaining 17 tags had been re-written and the DDSP tag data has been archived.

By comparing the consignee Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC), Port of Debarkation (POD) on the RF tag to the Read event on the tag, it was determined that 60 tags reached their final destination. Of the 60 tags, 54 had a "TK6" registered in the read events. TK6 transactions are generated when the consignee DODAAC matches the DODAAC listed on the interrogator registration page. One tag that had a POD of Rotterdam, Netherlands was last read at Mechanicsburg, PA, and we could not determine if it had reached final destination based on the ITV Server data.

From and For the Field

The Mobile Training Team's (MTT's) Tips and Tricks

Using the RF-ITV Training Tracking Portal

The RF-ITV Tracking Portal is a useful tool which provides the Soldier with a wealth of information. It incorporates powerful queries to help Soldiers quickly locate shipments, view specific details about shipments, monitor their supporting ITV network, and verify the quality of their data. The data uploaded to the RF-ITV Tracking Portal is critical not only to personnel accessing the portal but it also furnishes data for other critical databases such as Battlefield Command Sustainment and Support System (BCS3) and the Global Transportation Network (GTN). Therefore any data uploaded to the portal is critical and should only consist of shipment data for real world operations, exercises, and deployments. However, if a Soldier, unit, or entity is conducting training or testing ITV equipment and want to simulate the functionality of the portal, they can utilize the RF-ITV Training Tracking Portal.

The RF-ITV Training Tracking Portal is accessible at https://trainer.rfitv.army.mil/shiptrack/. To gain access the Soldier or user must be originating from a *.mil* domain. However, if you are not on a *.mil* domain you can contact the Global Help Desk to request access. You will need to provide information concerning the originating Internet Protocol (IP) address. If you are unfamiliar with that information consult your Director of Information Management (DOIM) or Local Area Network (LAN) administrator.

The Training Tracking Portal is almost identical to the actual Tracking Portal with a few exceptions. Data is not replicated between the Training and live Tracking portals. Therefore data uploaded will not affect other databases and systems dependent on data feeds from the Tracking Portal. Soldiers can utilize the Training Tracking Portal to conduct formal or over-the-shoulder training, practice writing tags or registering devices, and conduct pilots or test cases.

To upload data to the Training Tracking Portal, users must register the interrogator or docking station they are using to read or write tags on the Training Tracking Portal. If you are unfamiliar with this process, please review the PM J-AIT training CD or contact the Global Help Desk for further information.

NOTE: It is important, when uploading tags, that you make sure you are uploading to the correct server. If you are uploading "live" tags to the Training Server, they WILL NOT be seen on the RF-ITV Tracking Portal and you will not be able to track your shipments. Be sure you verify which server you are uploading to in order to track your shipments.

Mortuary Affairs uses Automatic Identification Technologies (AIT)

Article provided by Ms. Lee C. Green, CASCOM, Sustainment Division (lee.green@us.army.mil)

Mortuary Affairs (MA) is one of our most sensitive and priority missions on the battlefield. However, until now our Mortuary Affairs soldiers have had no automated system to support their mission. Mortuary Affairs specialists (92Ms) have had to manually and meticulously fill out numerous forms, manually track the handling and transportation of remains, and manually fill out reports to higher headquarters. While MA is a logistics function and is an approved function in Global Combat Support System-Army (GCSS-A), it is not a capability inherent to enterprise resource programs, such as is being used to develop GCSS-A. As a result, MA was not scheduled to be built into GCSS-A for many years. So in 2004, Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) requested to expand the Defense Casualty Information Processing System (DCIPS) to include mortuary affairs functions.

The DCIPS Program has expanded DCIPS adding DCIPS-Remains Tracking (RT) which will provide MA specialists with the capability to prepare all MA forms, enter MA data into a DoD database, and track remains as they are transported back to the United States. DCIPS-RT was designed to interface with the In-Transit Visibility (ITV) data base to enable tracking of remains; however, the transfer cases used to transport remains between theaters did not have RF tags. These transfer cases, which were developed prior to the Vietnam War, were not designed to host RF tags. CASCOM, working with the Program Manager for Force Sustainment Systems (PM FSS) out of Natick, MA, developed prototype transfer cases with significant improvements such as insulation, a temperature gauge, and RF tags. Transfer cases are used by all Services, although the Army is the proponent. With the help of the Air Force who purchased thirteen prototype transfer cases, testing of these cases began in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in September 2007.

Before the Army could implement the RF tracking capability, however, it was necessary to upgrade the ITV infrastructure as remains are often handled in locations not covered by cargo interrogators. In August 2007, CASCOM requested assistance from the Program Manager for Joint Automatic Identification Technology (PM J- AIT). PM J-AIT immediately conducted site surveys in September and October 2007 at the Theater Mortuary Evacuation Point (TMEP) in Kuwait, the intermediate air hub of Ramstein Air Force Base, and the Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, DE. All sites were upgraded to support the ITV system, equipment was provided to personnel at those locations, and personnel were trained. The Mortuary Affairs Collection Points (MACPs), where remains are usually placed in transfer cases, already were equipped with RF-ITV capability to support the tracking of Personal Effects (PE). Expanding the mission to include RF tags for remains was therefore a simple process for the MACPs.

On 25 January 2008, the entire transportation loop from the MACPs in OIF through Ramstein Air Base to Dover Port Mortuary became operational. For the first time, MA specialists and casualty case officers have the ability to track remains from point of entry into the MA system to the mortuary. When evaluation of these prototype transfer cases has been completed, these improved cases will be assigned a new stock number for inclusion in the DoD supply system. In addition, the RF tag mounting mechanisms will be expanded to the existing cases to support current operations. RF-ITV will provide accurate and current information using a DoD standard system (DCIPS-RT) and replacing the old process of manual tracking at every node. The DoD has an absolute commitment to handling remains with the reverence, care, and dignity they deserve, and to supporting families who have lost loved ones. By implementing an automated tracking system which interfaces with a DoD Mortuary Affairs automation system, the Army is leading the Mortuary Affairs functions into the 21st Century and greatly improving support to our families.

RFID GLOBAL HELP DESK

Toll Free: 1 (800) 877-7925
DSN: (809) 463-3376, wait for dial tone then dial 1 (800) 877-7925
Commercial: (703) 439-3850
(6 AM – 4 PM EST)

Email: help.rfitv@us.army.mil

The RFID Global Help Desk should be contacted before any attempt to reach an FSE in your area.

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter or if you have a noteworthy RF-ITV story, lesson-learned, or short article for publication in the newsletter, please submit to PM J-AIT (Jerry Rodgers) at jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil.

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